

Blind Bay Restoration Project

What is the project?

The goal of the Blind Bay Restoration Project is to restore fisheries habitat by reopening historic channels in the existing hybrid cattail stand.

How much is completed?

About 3,000 linear feet of channels were constructed in September. Four culverts were placed in the existing road to facilitate water flow through the channels to St. Lawrence River. The State University of New York College of Environmental Science and Forestry is monitoring and researching the fisheries and water quality under the guidance of SUNY-ESF Associate Professor John Farrell.

Who is involved in the project?

Blind Bay landowners worked with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Partners for Fish and Wildlife Program to complete the project. A group of landowners led by John Hart and Frank Menapace formed the Chippewa Point Road Alliance and purchased the private road right of way that bisects the marsh.

The group addressed archaeological issues with the New York State Historic Preservation Office and collaborated with all property owners within the project boundary to complete an agreement to preserve the habitat restoration for 10 years.

Why is the project needed?

A channel historically provided access to northern pike spawning and nursery habitat by connecting the wetlands to the St. Lawrence River. The construction of Chippewa Point Road in the 1960s blocked water flow, allowing siltation buildup and reducing oxygen levels. The invasion of a hybrid cattail suppressed other species, hindering fish spawning and reducing water quality.



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Landowners and partners restore Blind Bay fish habitat.

How will it be successful?

By reopening the water channels to St. Lawrence River, water flow will improve oxygen levels and decrease siltation buildup. This will allow northern pike to return to their historic spawning and nursery habitat.

Who is funding the project?

The Fish Enhancement, Mitigation, and Research Fund (FEMRF) financed the project, including the amphibious excavator used to reopen the channels. FEMRF was established as part of a settlement agreement with the New York Power Authority reached in the relicensing of the St. Lawrence-Franklin D. Roosevelt Power Project.

The Service manages the fund to benefit fish resources in the Lake Ontario and St. Lawrence River Basin and to continue research on the American eel and other species possibly affected by the power project.

For further information, contact:

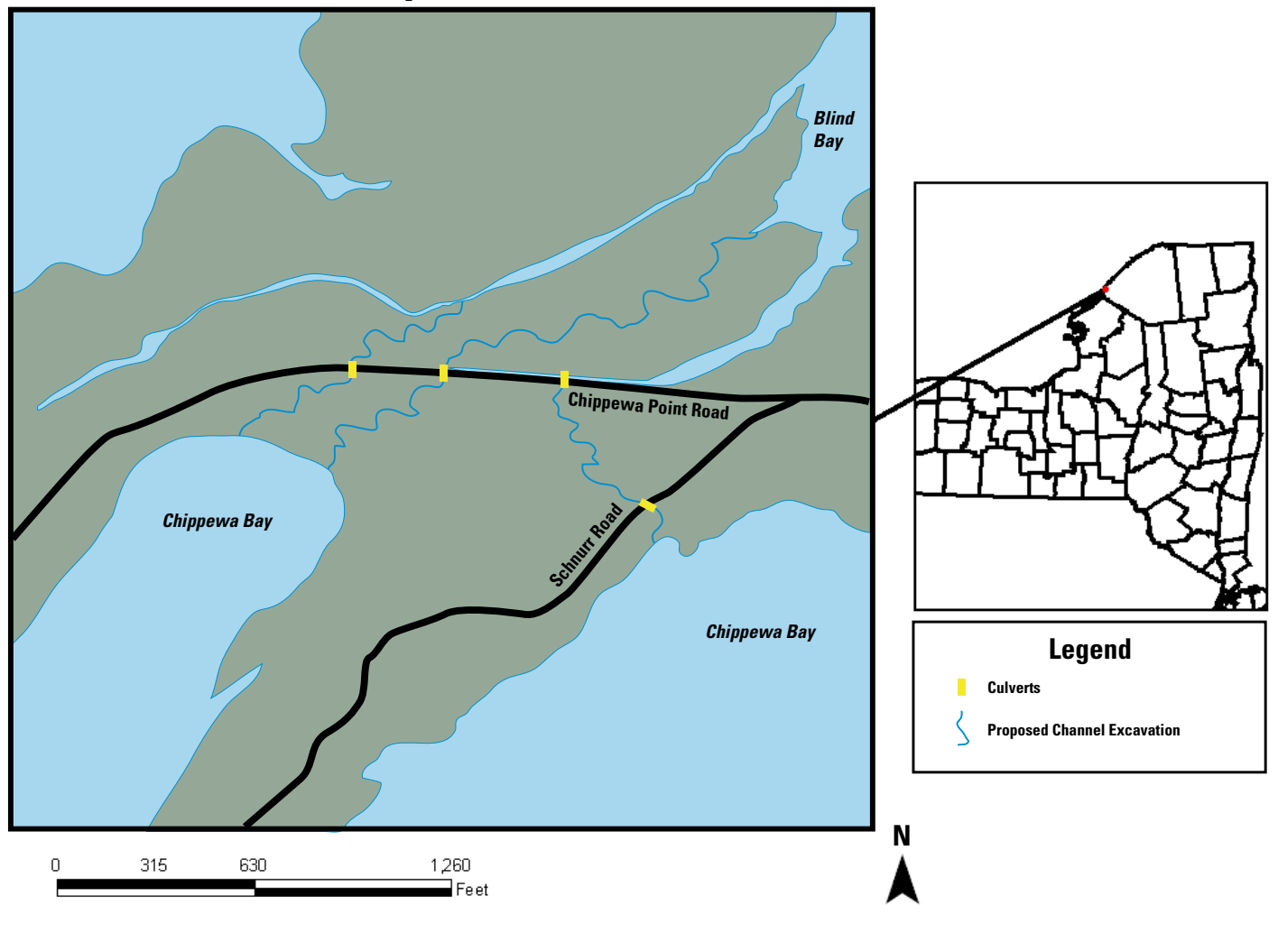
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For additional information on the topics below, please visit:

Fish Enhancement, Mitigation, and Research Fund: <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/fwc/femrf.htm>

Partners for Fish and Wildlife:

Northeast Regional Office, <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/partners/>

New York Field Office, <http://www.fws.gov/northeast/nyfo/partners/pfwdesc.htm>